

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for creating a message template used for embedding hidden messages, the method includes the steps of determining a message template performance metric comprising a dispersal measure having both a spatial domain function and a frequency domain function; developing a numerical optimization algorithm containing the message template performance metric as a basis for optimization; determining the message template geometric configuration comprising: (i) determining a message template capacity; (ii) determining a message template area; and applying the numerical optimization algorithm to the message template geometric configuration which results in an optimal message template.